

Application No. 09/723,228

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of selling a right through a computer network of indicating an advertisement on an article associated with a contestant participating in a contest ~~through a computer network~~, wherein the contest is to be broadcast through the computer network, the method comprising:

transmitting to a terminal computer of a potential buyer an indicator of advertising effectiveness for ~~[[the]]~~ a contestant, wherein the indicator represents at least one of the following characteristics of the contestant: achievements of the contestant, popularity of the contestant, ability of the contestant, talent of the contestant, audience rating of the contestant, and sales amount of the contestant;

displaying, on the terminal computer of the potential buyer, a page for designating a display position and a display size of the advertisement on the article as the advertisement will be displayed during the contest when the article is visible to an audience~~[[:]]~~, wherein the page displays an image of the article and an image or a frame of the advertisement and is adapted to provide changing of the position and the size of the image or the frame of the advertisement on

Application No. 09/723,228

the image of the article through manipulation of the image or the frame of the advertisement with a mouse device of the terminal computer of the potential buyer;

determining a selling price for the right in accordance with a predetermined mathematical expression using numerical parameters including the display position and the display size of the advertisement designated by the potential buyer, and the indicator of advertising effectiveness of the contestant; and

displaying both of an image that shows the display position and the display size of the advertisement designated by the potential buyer and the selling price on the terminal computer of the potential buyer.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a potential buyer transmits a proposed price for the right through the associated terminal.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

evaluating amounts proposed by buyers; and

determining a successful buyer based on the highest proposed amount.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising transmitting data of a home page for selling the right through the computer network, the selling price being displayed on the home page.

Application No. 09/723,228

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of selling the right is an auction, wherein buyers select a contestant, and the buyers transmit desired purchase prices from terminals to a server.
8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the home page displays a field for selecting the contestant, a field for displaying a display size and a display position of the advertisement, a calculation button for instructing the server to calculate the advertising rate, and a price display field for displaying as result of the calculation.
9. (Canceled).
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the selling price increases as the audience rating increases.
11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the game is broadcast through the internet, and the audience rating is determined from the number of accesses to a home page on which the game is broadcast.
12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising holding the match in a theme park.

Application No. 09/723,228

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the parameter represents at least a sales amount indicating the total sales of goods sold in the theme park associated with the contestant, and the selling price increases as the sales amount increases.

14-15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the article has a plurality of areas for displaying advertisements.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the article includes at least one of clothing worn by the contestant ~~player~~ during the contest, and a flag associated with the contestant.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:
receiving a selection from the potential buyer of the article; and
displaying an image of the selected article on a screen of the terminal computer of the potential buyer.

19-20. (Canceled).

Application No. 09/723,228

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the numerical parameter includes a ranking coefficient for the contestant, wherein the selling price increases higher as the ranking coefficient increases.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the selling price increases as the achievements increases.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the selling price increases as the popularity parameter increases.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contest is a contest of sumo, kenjutsu, igo, shogi, chess, science, culture or intellect.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contestant includes an individual, a team, and a work object.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the numerical parameters further include a broadcasting frequency, a broadcasting time and a zoom ratio of the advertisement.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising distributing profits obtained by selling the right between a contest management company and the player.

Application No. 09/723,228

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A server computer for selling a right through a computer network of indicating an advertisement on an article associated with a contestant participating in a contest ~~through a computer network~~, wherein the server computer is operable to

transmit to a terminal computer of a potential buyer an indicator of advertising effectiveness for ~~[[the]]~~ a contestant, the indicator representing at least one of the following characteristics of the contestant: achievements of the contestant, popularity of the contestant, ability of the contestant, talent of the contestant, audience rating of the contestant, and sales amount of the contestant;

display, on ~~[[a]]~~ the terminal computer of the potential buyer, a page for designating a display position and a display size of the advertisement on the article as the advertisement will be displayed during the contest when the article is visible to an audience~~[[;]]~~, wherein the page displays an image of the article and an image or a frame of the advertisement and is adapted to provide changing of the position and the size of the image or the frame of the advertisement on the image of the article through manipulation of the image or the frame of the advertisement with a mouse device of the terminal computer of the potential buyer;

determine a selling price for the right in accordance with a predetermined mathematical expression using numerical parameters including the display position and the display size of the advertisement designated by the potential buyer, and the indicator of advertising effectiveness of the contestant; and

Application No. 09/723,228

display both of an image that shows the display position and the display size of the advertisement designated by the potential buyer and the selling price on the terminal computer of the potential buyer.

30. (Previously Presented) The server computer according to claim 29, further operable to:

broadcast a match in which the contestant participates through the network;

evaluate desired purchase prices proposed by a plurality of buyers; and

select a buyer that proposed the highest amount.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~the potential buyer~~ operating, by the potential buyer, the terminal computer to change the display position and the display size of the advertisement, if the potential buyer disagrees with the selling price;

re-determining the selling price using the numerical parameters including the changed display position, the changed display size, and the indicator; and

transmitting the re-determined selling price to the terminal computer via the computer network.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the step of operating the terminal computer to change the display position and the display size of the advertisement

Application No. 09/723,228

includes moving the image of the advertisement displayed on the terminal computer through manipulation with a mouse device.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of selling an advertisement to a potential buyer through a computer network, the advertisement to be displayed on an article associated with a contestant participating in a contest, the method comprising:

broadcasting the contest on a bidirectional communication terminal device of the buyer while displaying a sponsor registration page on the bidirectional communication terminal device, the bidirectional communication terminal device connected to the computer network;

transmitting an advertising effectiveness indicator for ~~[[the]]~~ a contestant to the bidirectional communication terminal device, wherein the indicator represents at least one of the following characteristics of the contestant: achievements of the contestant, popularity of the contestant, ability of the contestant, talent of the contestant, audience rating of the contestant, and sales amount of the contestant of the contestant;

displaying, on the bidirectional communication terminal device, a page for designating a display position and a display size of the advertisement on the article as the advertisement will be displayed during the contest when the article is visible to an audience, wherein the page displays an image of the article and an image or a frame of the advertisement and is adapted ~~configured~~ to provide changing of the ~~allow the buyer to change the display position and the display size of the image or the frame of the advertisement on the image of the advertisement with article by manipulating a mouse device connected to~~ of the bidirectional communication terminal device of the potential buyer;

Application No. 09/723,228

determining a selling price for the right in accordance with advertisement according to a predetermined mathematical expression using numerical parameters including the display position and the display size of the advertisement designated by potential the buyer, and the indicator of advertising effectiveness; and

displaying, on the bidirectional communication terminal device of the potential buyer, a page including both of an image that shows the display position and the display size of the advertisement designated by the potential buyer and the selling price for enabling approval of the selling price by the potential buyer,

wherein said broadcasting includes broadcasting the advertisement is broadcast during the contest more frequently for a longer broadcast time and in a larger zoom size on the bidirectional communication terminal device as the selling price of advertisement increases.

35. (Currently Amended) A server computer for selling a right through a computer network of indicating an advertisement through a computer network, the advertisement to be displayed on an article associated with a contestant participating in a contest, wherein the server computer is operable to:

display a page for sponsor registration [[page]] on a bidirectional communication terminal device of a potential buyer, while the contest is being broadcast, the bidirectional communication terminal device connected to the computer network, when the contest is being broadcast on the bidirectional communication terminal device;

transmit to the bidirectional communication terminal device an indicator of advertising effectiveness indicator for [[the]] a contestant, to the bidirectional communication terminal

Application No. 09/723,228

~~device of the buyer, wherein~~ the indicator ~~represents~~ representing at least one of the following characteristics of the contestant: achievements of the contestant, popularity of the contestant, ability of the contestant, talent of the contestant, audience rating of the contestant, and sales amount of the contestant;

display, on the bidirectional communication terminal device of the potential buyer, a page for designating a display position and a display size of the advertisement on the article as the advertisement will be displayed during the contest when the article is visible to an audience, wherein the page displays an image of the article and an image or a frame of the advertisement and is ~~configured~~ adapted to provide changing of the ~~allow the buyer to change the display~~ position and the display size of the image or the frame of the advertisement on the image of the article through manipulation of the image or the frame of the advertisement with ~~by manipulating~~ a mouse device ~~connected to~~ of the bidirectional communication terminal device of the potential buyer;

determine a selling price for the right in accordance with ~~advertisement according to a~~ predetermined mathematical expression using numerical parameters including the display position and the display size of the advertisement designated by the potential buyer, and the indicator; and

display, on the bidirectional communication terminal device of the potential buyer, a page including both of an image that shows the display position and the display size of the advertisement designated by the potential buyer and the selling price for enabling approval of the ~~selling price by the potential buyer, to provide an opportunity for the buyer to approve the selling~~ price;

Application No. 09/723,228

wherein the advertisement is broadcast on the bidirectional communication terminal device ~~during the contest~~ more frequently for a longer broadcast time and in a larger zoom size on the bidirectional communication terminal device as the selling price of advertisement increases.